

§ 502.149 Disqualification of presiding or participating officer.

Any presiding or participating officer may at any time withdraw if he or she deems himself or herself disqualified, in which case there will be designated another presiding officer. If a party to a proceeding, or its representative, files a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias or disqualification of a presiding or participating officer, the Commission will determine the matter as a part of the record and decision in the case. [Rule 149.]

§ 502.150 Further evidence required by presiding officer during hearing.

At any time during the hearing, the presiding officer may call for further evidence upon any issue, and require such evidence where available to be presented by the party or parties concerned, either at the hearing or adjournment thereof. [Rule 150.]

§ 502.151 Exceptions to rulings of presiding officer unnecessary.

Formal exceptions to rulings of the presiding officer are unnecessary. It is sufficient that a party, at the time the ruling of the presiding officer is made or sought, makes known the action which it desires the presiding officer to take or its objection to an action taken, and its grounds therefor. [Rule 151.]

§ 502.152 Offer of proof.

An offer of proof made in connection with an objection taken to any ruling of the presiding officer rejecting or excluding proffered oral testimony shall consist of a statement of the substance of the evidence which counsel contends would be adduced by such testimony; and, if the excluded evidence consists of evidence in documentary or written form or of reference to documents or records, a copy of such evidence shall be marked for identification and shall constitute the offer of proof. [Rule 152.]

§ 502.153 Appeal from ruling of presiding officer other than orders of dismissal in whole or in part.

(a) Rulings of the presiding officer may not be appealed prior to or during the course of the hearing, or subsequent thereto, if the proceeding is still

before him or her, except where the presiding officer shall find it necessary to allow an appeal to the Commission to prevent substantial delay, expense, or detriment to the public interest, or undue prejudice to a party.

(b) Any party seeking to appeal must file a motion for leave to appeal no later than fifteen (15) days after written service or oral notice of the ruling in question, unless the presiding officer, for good cause shown, enlarges or shortens the time. Any such motion shall contain not only the grounds for leave to appeal but the appeal itself.

(c) Replies to the motion for leave to appeal and the appeal may be filed within fifteen (15) days after date of service thereof, unless the presiding officer, for good cause shown, enlarges or shortens the time. If the motion is granted, the presiding officer shall certify the appeal to the Commission.

(d) Unless otherwise provided, the certification of the appeal shall not operate as a stay of the proceeding before the presiding officer.

(e) The provisions of § 502.10 shall not apply to this section. [Rule 153.]

§ 502.154 Rights of parties as to presentation of evidence.

Every party shall have the right to present its case or defense by oral or documentary evidence, to submit rebuttal evidence, and to conduct such cross-examination as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts. The presiding officer shall, however, have the right and duty to limit the introduction of evidence and the examination and cross-examination of witnesses when in his or her judgment, such evidence or examination is cumulative or is productive of undue delay in the conduct of the hearing. [Rule 154.]

502.155 Burden of proof.

In all cases, as prescribed by the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 556(d), the burden of proof shall be on the proponent of the rule or order. [Rule 155.]

[61 FR 66617, Dec. 18, 1996]